

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01
DHA-02 CU-02 /063 W
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R 090916Z MAR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6943
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 1657

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT CSCE PL
SUBJECT: INTENSIFICATION OF POLISH MEDIA CAMPAIGN
AGAINST FRG

1. SUMMARY: MARCH 5-6 AND 7 EDITIONS OF TRYBUNA LUDU AND
ZYCIE WARSZAWY CARRIED ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY INTENSIFYING
THE CURRENT ANTI-FRG MEDIA CAMPAIGN. TOPICS RANGE
FROM GERMAN "REVANCHISM", TO HEATED CRITICISM OF
RECENTLY PUBLISHED WEST GERMAN ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING ATROCITIES
COMMITTED BY POLES AGAINST GERMANS IN THE PERIOD
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II. THE ARTICLES REPRESENT
A COUNTER-ATTACK AGAINST OUTSPOKEN FRG
MEDIA REPORTING OF EASTERN EUROPE DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE MARCH 5-6 EDITION OF ZYCIE WARSZAWY CARRIES AN
EDITORIAL BY JANUSZ REITER ATTACKING THE "UNITY OF VIEWS"
OF CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT AND CDU LEADER HELMUT KOHL
ON FRG-GDR RELATIONS.
CITING KOHL'S DESIRE FOR MORE INFLUENCE OVER "GERMAN
POLICY," REITER SAYS THAT KOHL RECOGNIZES THE EXISTENCE
OF THE GDR BUT, INCONGRUOUSLY, DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE

EXISTENCE OF GDR CITIZENS. REITER ALSO SAYS THAT "THE GOVERNMENT OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT CONCLUDED A TREATY ON THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. THAT SAME GOVERNMENT WAS A SIGNATORY OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAS NOT DIRECTLY CONTRAVENED EITHER OF THESE DOCUMENTS, BUT IT HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY UNCEREMONIOUS IN CIRCUMVENTING THIER SPIRIT. THE CONSTANT PERSECUTION OF THE SECOND (GERMAN) STATE, THE 'ANNEXATION' OF ITS CITIZENS, IS CERTAINLY NOT THE STYLE OF INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS ABOUT WHICH THE FINAL ACT SPEAKS. AT THE SAME TIME, NO ONE QUOTES THE FINAL ACT MORE READILY THAN THE FRG."

3. TRYBUNA LUDU OF MARCH 5-6 CARRIES A REPORT BY THE POLISH PRESS AGENCY'S BONN CORRESPONDENT, EUGENIUSZ GUZ, ABOUT BUDNESTAG DEPUTY HUPKA'S RECENT ATTACK ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT FRG-POLISH COMMISSION CONCERNING THE REVISION OF SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS. GUZ REPORTS BROAD OPPOSITION IN THE FRG TO THE ADOPTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. TRYBUNA LUDU OF MARCH 7 CARRIES AN AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARY BY RYSZARD WOJNA ENTITLED, "THE PECULIAR GUARDIANS OF HUMAN RIGHTS," ON THE THE REPORTED PROSECUTION OF A CASE INITIATED BY THE HAGEN PROSECUTOR AGAINST POLISH CITIZENS WHO SERVED AS GUARDS AT THE LABINOWICE (LANSDORF) PRISON CAMP IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WAR. WOJNA CHARGES THAT THIS ACTION IS A PROPAGANDA PLOY OF "GERMAN NATIONALISTS," ESPECIALLY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. CONFIDENTIAL

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IT SIGNALS A "NEW ESCALATION" OF THEIR RECENTLY REVITALIZED ANTI-POLISH ACTIONS. "CERTAIN FRG CIRCLES . . . BELIEVE THAT RAISING AN UPROAR OVER IMAGINARY ATROCITIES AGAINST GERMANS WILL LEAD TO A CHANGED PERSPECTIVE IN THE (REAL) GERMAN ATROCITIES." THIS IS OCCURRING AT A TIME WHEN THE WEST GERMAN PRESS, ESPECIALLY THE SPRINGER PRESS, ". . . IS FLOODED WITH HYPROCRITICAL DECLARATIONS IN THE MEANING OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS." WOJNA CONCLUDES THAT ". . . BY CALLING UPON THESE PRINCIPLES, THEY USE THEM FOR GOALS WITH WHICH THEY HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON."

5. EXPANDING WOJNA'S THEME, THE MARCH 7 ZYCIE WARSZAWY CARRIES AN EXTENSIVE ARTICLE ENTITLED "PROVOCATION AND BLACKMAIL, THE MATTER OF IMAGINARY ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY POLES AGAINST GERMANS," BY PROFESSOR CZESLAW PILICHOWSKI, DIRECTOR OF THE MAIN COMMISSION FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF HITLERLITE ATROCITIES IN POLAND. PILICHOWSKI ALSO DISMISSES THE CHARGES CONCERNING THE LABINOWICE CAMP, AND

HOLDS THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF GERMAN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN POLAND DURING THE CLOSING STAGES OF THE WAR RESULTED FROM THE THIRD REICH'S OWN FORCIBLE EVACUATION OF GERMAN NATIONAL FROM THE "DEUTSCHE OSTPROVINZEN." HE ATTACKED THE LEADER OF THE UNION OF EXILES, CZAJA, AND BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES HUPKA AND WINDELIN AS REVANCHIST AND NEO-FACISTS FOR PUBLICIZING THE ANTI-POLISH CHARGES. HE SAYS THAT AND OTHER CDU/CSU FUNCTIONARIES ARE TRYING TO FALSIFY HISTORY AND EQUATE NAZI ATROCITIES WITH "IMAGINARY" CRIMES COMMITTED BY POLES DURING THE RESETTLEMENT OF GERMANS. CITING DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE FRG ON THE AUTHENCITY OF THE DOCUMENTATION ON THE POLISH ATROCITIES, PILICHOWSKI SAYS THAT "IT IS DIFFICULT TO DEFINE THE CHARACTER. . . OF THIS MATERIAL. " IN ANY EVENT, IT MAY BE CATEGORIZED AS BLACKMAIL, SLANDER, AND PROVOCATION BY RIGHT-WING, NEO-NAZI, AND REVISIONIST WEST GERMAN CIRCLES. ON
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THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, ONE CAN SEE IN THE DOCUMENTATION

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R 090916Z MAR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6944
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 1657

...A NEW ELEMENT, NAMELY, THAT IT WAS DEVELOPED BY FRG STATE INSTITUTIONS AT THE REQUEST OF FRG MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. WITH REGARD TO THIS, A NEW QUESTION ARISES: HOW CAN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL REPORT ON THIS DOCUMENTATION BE RECONCILED WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE PPR-FRG TREATY ON THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS OF DECEMBER 7 1970?" PILICHOWSKI BITTERLY ATTACKS HUPKA AND OTHER FRG OFFICIALS WHO STILL REFER TO WESTERN AND NORTHERN POLAND AS A PART OF GERMANY, AND ACCUSES THEM OF TRYING TO GET EVEN WITH POLAND AND THE OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN WHICH SUFFERED THE MOST AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS.

6. TRYBUNA LUDU ON MARCH 7 ALSO PRINTED AN ARTICLE BY ITS BONN CORRESPONDENT, JAN MOSZCZYNSKI, ENTITLED "REVANCHIST ACTIVITIES." THE ARTICLE CONCERNS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
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SILESIAN AND POMERANIAN LANDSMANNSCHAFTEN AND HOLDS THAT THEY ARE AIMED AT "...SPREADING THE OLD, REVISIONIST THESIS THAT GERMANY CONTINUES TO EXIST WITHIN ITS 1937 BORDERS, THAT THE SO-CALLED GERMAN PROBLEM IS STILL OPEN AND THAT, THEREFORE, THE FRG GOVERNMENT MUST TREAT IT AS A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT." MOSZCZYNSKI SAYS SUCH AN ATTITUDE IS IN CONTRAVENTION OF FRG AGREEMENTS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

7. COMMENT: THESE ARTICLES RAISE THE CURRENT ANTI-FRG POLISH MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO A NEW LEVEL OF STRIDENCY, HARKING BACK TO THE PERIOD BEFORE SIGNATURE OF THE SCHNIDT-GIEREK AGREEMENTS OF JULY, 1975. THE CURRENT SPATE OF REFERENCES TO POLAND BY GERMAN POLITICAL FIGURES AND JOURNALISTS, IS USEFUL TO THE POLISH AUTHORITIES AS A PRETEXT FOR ONCE AGAIN RAISING THE GERMAN BOGEYMAN, THIS TIME AS PART OF THE POLISH REGIME'S ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT THE DIFFICULT DOMESTIC SITUATION FROM WESTERN CRITICISM OF EASTERN EUROPEAN PERFORMANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ALLEGATIONS
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977WARSAW01657
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770081-0058
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770375/aaaacoog.tel
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3156014
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTENSIFICATION OF POLISH MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRG
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PL, GE, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7dbdd1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009